



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s)	Bicek et al.	Examiner:	Nguyen, V.X.
Serial No.:	09/974,653	Group Art Unit:	3731
Confirmation No.:	9912	Docket:	760-49 RCE
Filed:	October 10, 2001	Dated:	November 3, 2004
For:	STENT DESIGN WITH SHEATH ATTACHMENT MEMBERS		

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

*I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 3, 2004.*

Signed: M J Mullin

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of June 15, 2004 and the Advisory Action of October 4, 2004, and in connection with the concurrently-submitted Request for Continued Examination (RCE), please amend the above-identified application prior to further examination.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.